Serial No. 09/903,024

Group Art Unit: 2653

Amendments in the Claims

This Listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~disc drive head positioning~~ head suspension comprising:

a base;

a load beam extending in a first plane having a first end and a second end, a longitudinal axis extending between the first end and the second end of the load beam, and a transverse axis extending perpendicular to the longitudinal axis within the first plane; and

a bend section connecting the base to the second end of the load beam, the bend section including a transverse axis aligned parallel to the transverse axis of the load beam, ~~and~~ a longitudinal axis aligned parallel to the load beam longitudinal axis;

~~wherein the bend section comprises a plate having a width~~, a width measured along the transverse axis of the bend section, and ~~a rail~~ first and second rails extending ~~along the plate~~ in a direction parallel to the transverse axis of the bend section, and ~~wherein the rail extends~~ further extending out of the first plane so as to form an open channel across at least a portion of the width of the bend section.

2. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the ~~rail extends in two different planes~~ first and second rails extend in second and third planes distinct from the first plane.

3. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim 1 wherein ~~the rail~~ each of the first and second rails has a width, a thickness, and a length, and wherein the width of the ~~rail~~ the first and second rails is substantially similar to the width of the base ~~plate~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the ~~bend section rail extends~~ the first and second rails extend in a direction substantially normal to the first plane.

5. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim ~~4~~ 1 wherein ~~the bend section comprises a second rail,~~ the first and second rails ~~being~~ are separated in the longitudinal axis direction of the

bend section, ~~the rails forming an open channel~~ and a portion of the bend section extending in the first plane connect the first and second rails together to form the open channel.

6. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim ~~5~~ 1 wherein a cross-section of the open channel is substantially U-shaped.

7. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim ~~5~~ 1 wherein either the first rail or the second rail comprises two segments along its width.

8. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim ~~3~~ 2 wherein ~~the base plate of the bend section has a thickness and wherein the rail length is substantially greater than the thickness of the bend section~~ the first and second rails include a portion of the bend section in the first plane that is cut into the shape of the first or second rail and then bent into the second or third plane to form the first or second rail.

9. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein a cross-section of the open channel is substantially circular.

10. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein a portion of the bend section and ~~rail~~ the first and second rails is removed on one side of the longitudinal axis.

11. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein the load beam has a width centered about the longitudinal axis, and wherein the ~~rail~~ width of the first and second rails is greater than the width of the load beam and no wider than ~~the~~ a width of the base ~~plate~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The suspension of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein the load beam has a width centered about the longitudinal axis, and wherein the ~~rail~~ width the first and second rails is less than the width of the load beam.

13. (Currently Amended) A suspension member comprising:

a plate extending in a first plane, the plate having a width centered about a longitudinal axis of the plate; and

~~a rail~~ first and second rails coupled to the plate, the ~~rail~~ first and second rails extending ~~along the plate parallel to a transverse~~ in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the plate~~; and~~

~~wherein the rail extends~~ and being spaced apart in the longitudinal direction, the first rail further extending in a second plane ~~wherein the second plane is~~ and the second rails extending in a third plane, the second and third planes being different than the first plane, wherein a portion of the plate extending in the first plane connects the first and second rails together to form an open channel having a generally U-shaped cross-section.

14. (Currently Amended) The suspension member of claim 13 wherein the second ~~plane is~~ and third planes are perpendicular to the first plane.

15. (Currently Amended) The suspension member of claim 13 wherein the second ~~plane is~~ and third planes are at an angle less than 90° from the first plane.

16. (Currently Amended) The suspension member of claim 13 wherein the second ~~plane is~~ and third planes are at an angle greater than 90° from the first plane.

17. (Currently Amended) The suspension member of claim 13 wherein ~~a second rail is coupled to the plate wherein the second rail extends in a third plane wherein the third plane is different than the first plane~~ the second and third planes extend at different angles from the first plane.

18. (Currently Amended) The suspension member of claim ~~17~~ 13 wherein the second plane and the third plane are curved.

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19. (Currently Amended) A head suspension comprising:

a base;

a load beam; and

a bend section having a first end and a second end, the first end being coupled to the load beam and the second end being coupled to the base;

~~wherein the bend section comprises~~, a base plate extending in a first plane, and ~~a rail~~ first and second rails coupled to the plate, ~~wherein~~ the first rail ~~extends~~ extending in a second plane and the second rail extending in a third plane, ~~wherein~~ the first ~~plate is~~ plane being different from the ~~first plane~~ second and third planes, and a portion of the base plate extending in the first plane connects the first and second rails to form an open channel across the bend section in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of the head suspension.

20. (Currently Amended) A suspension member comprising:

a base extending in a first plane;

a load beam extending in a first plane; and

stiffening means coupling the base and load beam for maximizing translational stiffness of the load beam in a direction out of the first plane while minimizing rotational stiffness of the load beam, the stiffening means including first and second rails extending in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of the suspension member and further extending in a direction out of the first plane, the first and second rails being spaced apart in a direction of the longitudinal axis and being connected by a portion of the stiffening means that extends in the first plane so as to form a open channel.

21. (New) A head suspension comprising:

a base;

a load beam extending in a first plane having a first end and a second end, a longitudinal axis extending between the first end and the second end of the load beam, and a transverse axis extending perpendicular to the longitudinal axis within the first plane; and

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a bend section connecting the base to the second end of the load beam, the bend section including a transverse axis aligned parallel to the transverse axis of the load beam, and a longitudinal axis aligned parallel to the load beam longitudinal axis, a width measured along the transverse axis of the bend section, and a rail having a width extending in a direction parallel to the transverse axis of the bend section and a length extending out of the first plane, wherein the rail includes at least two separate segments along the rail width.